

# THE *M* EDITION

Volume 16 Issue 1

Newsletter of the NWOHio Miata Club

January 2010

## Happy Valentine's Day Brunch

**Date:** Sunday, February 14, 2010

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Place:** Nazareth Hall, 1211 West River Road (R65), Grand Rapids

Our November Sunday brunch was such a success that we're doing it again.

Enjoy a pleasant drive on River Road and treat your Valentine to brunch. The buffet offers soups, salad, breakfast, lunch, and dinner items. It also offers a carving station, made-to-order omelets, unlimited refills on drinks, desserts, and a chocolate fountain, all for the price of \$10.65 per person, including tax and gratuity.

Please contact Art or Betty Raker at [rkraf@bex.net](mailto:rkraf@bex.net) or 419-661-1777 by February 7 to make a reservation.

## Jing Chuan Proves to be a Popular Dinner Venue

Although the Chinese New Year doesn't officially begin until next month, there was a distinct party atmosphere at the club's dinner meeting on January 9.

A total of 26 members shared in the excellent cuisine at Jing Chuan, a favorite restaurant of our hosts for the evening, Tom and Fran Thayer. Not only were there many compliments on the quality of the food, the portions seemed to be overwhelming, as evidenced by the many little white take-home boxes carried away by the diners.

Of course, these winter dinner meetings are not all about the food. Conversations ranged from car adventures, to weddings, health issues, holiday activities and travel plans, as well as the financial status of the club and ideas for the coming year's events.

It was also nice to see a number of folks whose busy schedules keep them away from some of our summer activities, and the group was happy to welcome one of our newer members, Pat Hart, attending his first event.



Near the evening's end, president Jerry Bish conducted what we laughingly refer to as a business meeting (15 minutes is our record). Among our decisions: we will continue our Adopt-A-Highway program and - all praise - Tom Thayer has agreed to chair this activity. Let's all thank Tom properly by volunteering to help on the road crews when the pickup schedule is announced.

We also agreed to some other items, covered elsewhere in this newsletter: providing pics to the Raymonds, so they can produce another great calendar and planning for our meanders, to include a gala 15th anniversary party. So onward and upward into the new year!

## Meander Suggestions Needed

1) We don't yet have a calendar of events for 2010. 2) We need one. 3) This can be put right quite easily. We generally try to have an activity each month from April through October. Sometimes we let other clubs do the heavy lifting and count events like MiMiata at MIS, the Midwest Miata Gathering or the Columbus area's Riverrun Tour. Anyway, we still need 5 or 6 local events.

This year is the club's 15th anniversary, so we'd like to do a drive ending in a cookout, probably in midsummer. If you know of a likely spot to hold the picnic, please contact Jerry, so we can start making plans. We then need another 4-5 events to round out the calendar. PLEASE, volunteer early and pick a tentative date. Details can follow.

## Economic Stimulus Continues

As can be seen in our financial report, we still have enough cash in the bank for all foreseen expenses. Thus, there will be no dues billing this year for current members and new folks will again receive a two year membership for just \$10.00.

Ain't America great!

## 2010 Deals Gap Miata Tour

The Northcoast Miata Club is planning for the 10th annual spring "Miatas at the Gap" tour. As in the past several years, Jan and I would like any interested NW Ohio Miata Club members to join us May 11 through May 16, 2010.

This adventure is all about driving the "Dragon" at Deal's Gap, which straddles the Tennessee and North Carolina state lines. The Dragon is identified as US Highway 129, and is noted for the 318 curves in its 11 mile length. This portion of the road is considered by many to be the number one sports car road in the United States.

Our headquarters at Valley View Lodge, Townsend, TN is a short, scenic drive to the Dragon, and to other areas within, and nearby the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Let us know if you would be interested in joining us on this tour. You should make hotel reservations directly with Valley View Lodge (1-800-292-4844) ([valleyviewtn@aol.com](mailto:valleyviewtn@aol.com)). Indicate to the Lodge you are with the "Miata group in building 6", as there are special group rates available.

For questions, call us at (419) 356-4354.

**Larry and Jan Sheridan**

## 2009 Financial Report

31 Dec 2008	Balance:	\$2,894.95
<b>Income:</b>		
Dues -	\$	260.00
Interest -	\$	1.59
50/50 -	\$	96.00
Holiday Party -	\$	130.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$	487.59
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Postage -	\$	26.00
Supplies -	\$	118.77
Web Site -	\$	118.80
Holiday Party-	\$	213.81
Other Events -	\$	18.85
<b>Total:</b>	\$	496.23
31 Dec 2009	Balance:	\$2,886.31

**Wagner Mazda\***

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Fostoria, Ohio 44830

419-435-8131

800-589-8111

Email: [EmailWagner@aol.com](mailto:EmailWagner@aol.com)



**MX-5 Miata**



**Mazda3**



**Mazda6**



**CX-7**

Call or stop in and talk to Jeff, Brett or Dave and check the NWOHio Miata Club web site for the latest special deals.

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# Winter Event Calendar

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Valentine's Day Brunch

Hosted by the Rakers

Friday, March 12, 2010

NWOHio Miata Club Dinner

Hosted by the Himmeleins

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## NWOHio Officers

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## Take Over Lease



Due to an unforeseen situation, I need to unload my 2008 Mazda Miata MX-5. I leased it in June 2008 and I would like someone to take over my lease payment.

I leased it for 36 months/36,000 miles through 5/3 Bank and the payment is \$497.21 a month. There are only 6,900 miles on the car. For details, on the car and arrangements, please feel free to call or email David Ronau at 419-893-0422 or dartfour@aol.com.

## Miata Events Provide Cold Weather Getaway

If you're looking for an excuse to head south for warmer weather in the spring, you might consider a long weekend break at one of the Carolina Miata events.

The Lowcountry Miata Club, Charleston, SC, recently announced that they still have spots open for "Miatas Doin' the Charleston," April 29-May 2. Driving excursions will take participants throughout their historic areas, deep into primitive Lowcountry marshes and preserves, and lead to hidden gems throughout the area. Attendees will experience classic Southern Charm and the beauty of all of Charleston's Historic houses & forts as well as the history of surrounding areas such as North Charleston, Moncks Corner, Summerville, Isle of Palms, Folly Beach, James Island, Sullivan's Island & Johns Island.

The registration fee of \$140 includes a t-shirt, goodie bag, southern luau dinner with music, Saturday night dinner, a vendors' hall, car wash station and all driving tours. Additional cost items are a Charleston Harbor dinner cruise and an historic district bus tour.

We currently have four cars from our club registered and would encourage more members to join us for the fun. Details are posted at <http://www.miatasdothecharleston.com/>

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Miatas at Myrtle Beach IV will be held on March 25-28. It features a car show, track day and autocross, a country drive and micro-brew swap meet. Headquarters will be the Sea Mist Resort. Last year, there were over 250 cars in attendance and the organizers are hoping for more this year.

The fees for the event are ala carte: \$10 for registration, \$25 for the track portion, \$20 for a t-shirt, \$20 for the car show and \$10 for charity raffle tickets. Room range from \$53-\$79. All of the details are available by going to [http://triadmیاتas.com/MAMB\\_IV.html](http://triadmیاتas.com/MAMB_IV.html)

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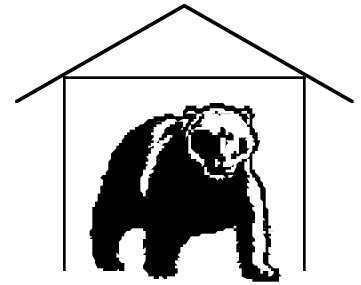
## Get Well Quick Wishes

We mentioned in our last *M Edition* that Dick Huffman was ill and could not attend the Holiday Party. Bill Potvin saw Dick a couple of weeks ago and, although he is still recuperating, his spirits are good and he says Hi to everyone. His daughter Terry is staying with him and daughter Boo and son Tom live nearby, so he's getting lots of help.

If you'd like to send get well wishes, you can mail a note to 7732 Timbers Edge, Waterville, OH 43566 or his email address is [huffer@buckeye-express.com](mailto:huffer@buckeye-express.com)

## Griz's Garage - Has a Gorilla Entered Your Life?

by Keith Sommers



I ran into a little problem while removing my wheels for last months article entitled *Let Your Inner Michelangelo Emerge*. My wheel nuts were so tight that the Mazda provided wrench and all of my body weight couldn't break them free. Never had that problem before. I've rotated my wheels every 3,000 miles and removed them for brake and suspension upgrades. The wheel nuts always complied in the past. Oh well, enough wondering why they were so tight, I still had to remove the wheels.

Adding a two-foot extension to the wrench for leverage, the nuts finally let go of their death grip with a loud snap and the scream of freedom. With the nuts removed, I noticed that the wheel studs had corrosion on the threads. That wasn't there before.

The only reason that I can come up with for the problem was that last April a well-known tire chain installed new tires. I feel that they must have employed Gorillas for mechanics. The Gorilla that installed my wheels must have used an air gun and the German torque system of Good-n-tight or the American system of crank it until it smokes. As for the corrosion on the threads, I think that the Gorilla also used a rotary brush to clean the studs and in the process removed the protective coating.

To correct the problem I removed the corrosion from the studs with a brass brush and applied a small amount of anti-seize lubricant to the threads of the stud. Anti-seize lubricant prevents corrosion, galling, seizing, and permits easy disassembly. Any auto parts store will carry this product. I also installed the nuts by hand and tightened with a torque wrench. After about 50 miles of driving I will recheck the wheel nut torque.

I would suggest that if you have someone install your wheels, make it known that a Miata is not a Mac Truck and that the wheel nuts should not be installed with an air gun. Have the nuts installed using hand tools, and the final tightening be accomplished with a torque wrench.

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## I-Zoom Instead of Making an E-Z Pass

by Bill Potvin

When the Ohio Turnpike started using E-Z Pass, an electronic toll-collection system, I considered getting a transponder (tag), both for the convenience in passing through toll booths and for the economy. But I don't really travel the Pike that much so I wondered how much I'd save and if I'd need a tag for each of our three cars. A little investigation answered several questions:

- 1) E-Z Pass is used on the nearby IN, IL and PA toll roads, as well as the Chicago Skyway. It is also used in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine.
- 2) The savings in tolls are significant. E-Z Pass reduces the toll for the length of the Ohio Turnpike by almost \$5.00.
- 3) A separate transponder is RECOMMENDED for each car, but not required.
- 4) Since a tag purchased and registered in one state can be used in all the other E-Z Pass states, it pays to shop.

Ohio charges \$0.75 per month for the service, and \$3.00 shipping for the tag plus an initial \$25.00 charge to your credit card. When your balance falls below \$10.00, it is recharged to at least a \$25.00 balance. I particularly didn't like the \$9.00 per year service charge. Instead, when in Indiana, Linda stopped at a CVS Pharmacy and picked up their version, which seems to be made for Mazda owners, since it's called I-Zoom. It was only \$10.00, \$2.00 of which is a convenience fee, so you get an initial \$8.00 credit for tolls. The neat thing is that you can register a checking account for charges, instead of a credit card, and then pay no monthly fee.

One more thing. The transponders are big and ugly. I rigged mine with a suction cup on the back and keep it in the glove box when I don't need it. All of our cars are registered to the same tag and the suction cup is the world's cheapest universal mount. Check out [www.getizoom.com/index.jsp](http://www.getizoom.com/index.jsp) and [www.ohioturnpike.org/travelers/ezpass/](http://www.ohioturnpike.org/travelers/ezpass/)